

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SY-05 COME-00 EB-08 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 FBIE-00 CPR-01 /050 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:MTDIXON:TMC
APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:MGARRISON
EUR/SOV:WHEDGAR
EUR/SOV:LWILLEMS
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
IO, A/SY, COMMERCE
-----007122 141252Z /50

R 140259Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 096024

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEWT, ETRD, ASEC, UR

SUBJECT: RELOCATION OF INTOURIST OFFICES IN NEW YORK

REF: MOSCOW 7410 AND PREVIOUS

1. DEPARTMENT WAS UNAWARE OF SOVIET "LINKAGE" BETWEEN RETURN OF MARSCHALCO'S DRIVER'S LICENSE AND RELOCATION OF INTOURIST. AMEXCO REP HANSEN-STURM TOLD DEPTOFF, APRIL 12, THAT SOVIETS HAD NOT EXPLICITLY TIED THE TWO MATTERS, AND SPECULATED THAT MARSCHALCO'S PROBLEMS WERE MORE LIKELY A REFLECTION OF "BAD RELATIONS" BETWEEN AMEXCO AND INTOURIST. INTOURIST, HE EXPLAINED, HAD BEEN PIQUED BY TOUGH LINE HELD BY AMEXCO IN BID FOR GENERAL TRAVEL AGENT FOR THE 1980 OLYMPICS. INTOURIST WANTED AMEXCO TO ASSUME GENERAL AGENT'S ROLE BUT AMEXCO WAS UNWILLING TO DO SO BEFORE
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THOROUGHLY FAMILIARIZING ITSELF WITH SOVIET FACILITIES, A CONDITION AT WHICH THE SOVIETS BALKED. IN ANY CASE, HANSEN-STURM CONTINUED, THIS PROBLEM WAS BEING RESOLVED SINCE AMEXCO HAD AGREED TO WORK WITH US OLYMPIC COMMITTEE TO FIND GENERAL AGENT, WHICH MAY EVENTUALLY TURN OUT TO BE AMEXCO. THE MARCH MEETING OF THE TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON TOURISM HAD PAVED WAY FOR SMOOTHER AMEXCO-

INTOURIST RELATIONS AND MARSCHALKO FELT CONFIDENT THAT

SITUATION COULD BE RESOLVED WITH MILD PRESSURE FROM AMEXCO NY ON INTOURIST. DEPTOFF REPLIED THAT, WHILE IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE IN PERIOD OF IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH INTOURIST THAT AMEXCO WISHES TO SETTLE THE DRIVER'S LICENSE ISSUE QUIETLY, VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE POINT DIPLOMATICALLY HAD BEEN MISSED ON APRIL 7 WHEN DEPARTMENT FORMALLY APPROVED RELOCATION OF INTOURIST.

2. HANSEN-STURM SAID INTOURIST, DUE TO BUDGETARY RESTRICTIONS, IS NOT INTERESTED IN SECOND NEW YORK OFFICE, BUT IS LOOKING FOR POSSIBLE WINDOW SPACE FOR INTOURIST ADVERTISING AND PROMOTIONAL DISPLAYS. HE ADDED THAT SOVIETS HAD DEFINITELY DROPPED QUEST FOR SECOND OFFICE WHEN ADVISED OF DEPARTMENT'S LIKELY DISPOSITION TOWARD SUCH A REQUEST (STATE 82110).
CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, TOURISM, OPENING OF OFFICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE096024
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MTDIXON:TMC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780160-0920
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780454/aaaabttb.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bf9401b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MOSCOW 7410
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2960953
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RELOCATION OF INTOURIST OFFICES IN NEW YORK
TAGS: EEWT, ETRD, ASEC, UR
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bf9401b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014